

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

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FOR D/HA

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SREF ICEM
SUBJ: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES TRANSPORTATION COSTS

FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM ICEM DIRECTOR JOHN THOMAS
TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

QUOTE

1. SINCE THE INITIATION OF PROMISSORY NOTES FOR INDOCHINA
REFUGEES ICEM, VOLAGS AND PROBABLY US CONSULS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED
IN CONSIDERABLE ADMINISTRATIVE WORK TO DETERMINE THE TRANSPORT-
ATION COST TO BE USED. VOLAGS ARE NOW URGING THAT ICEM
ESTABLISH FLAT RATES AND WE AGREE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

AA - WHERE THERE IS LARGE VOLUME OF TRAFFIC - E.G. EX BANGKOK
OR HONG KONG ICEM IS ABLE TO OBTAIN VERY GOOD REDUCED FARES BUT
ALTHOUGH WE CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS THERE ARE INSTANCES WHERE FULL
FARES HAVE TO BE PAID. AS RESULT AN INDIVIDUAL DEPARTING EX
TOKYO MAY COST AND SIGN PROMNOTE NEARLY TWICE THE AMOUNT REQUIRED
FOR A CASE EX BANGKOK. FURTHERMORE BOAT CASES OFTEN ARRIVE
REMOTE AREAS AND FULL FARE LINK FLIGHTS ARE NECESSARY TO BRING
THEM TO A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

BB - AS NEARLY 145,000 INDOCHINA REFUGEES HAVE ARRIVED USA WITHOUT
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PROMISSORY NOTES, IT IS NOT EASY FOR VOLAGS TO BEGIN COLLECTIONS
FROM INDIVIDUALS ENTERING THE SAME COMMUNITIES AND THIS IS ONLY
AGGRAVATED BY DISCREPANCIES UNDER AA ABOVE.

CC - WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT REFUGEES MAKE INITIAL PAYMENTS
AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO DO SO IF THEY FEEL
THEY WERE GIVEN THE BENEFIT OF REDUCED COST TRANSPORTATION.

2. ICEM THEREFORE PROPOSES THAT AS HONG KONG WILL BECOME A TRANSIT PROCESSING CENTRE IN 1977, THE COSTS OF BEING BROUGHT TO HONG KONG WHICH WILL VARY CONSIDERABLY SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE PROMISSORY NOTE. ICEM SUGGESTS EITHER:

AA - ONE FLAT RATE OF USD 320 PER ADULT USD 160 PER CHILD USD 32 PER INFANT FOR ALL CASES REGARDLESS OF POINT OF ORIGIN AND FINAL US DESTINATION, OR

BB - FOLLOWING ADULT RATES PRO RATA FOR CHILDREN/INFANTS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT INLAND TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT. USD 320 TO CALIFORNIA, OREGON, WASHINGTON, NEVADA USD 380 TO OTHER STATES AS FAR AS DAKOTAS, NEBRASKA, KANSAS, OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS USD 440 TO ALL REMAINING STATES ABOVE RATES FORMULATED SO THAT INDIVIDUALS SHOULD NOT RECEIVE AN AIRLINE TICKET INDICATING A LOWER FARE THAN THE PROMNOTE. ACTUAL FARES WILL BE KNOWN TO HA FROM ICEM 1976 INVOICES.

3. IF ABOVE AGREED WE WOULD ALSO PROPOSE TO WRITE BACK 1976 PROMISSORY NOTES TO THE AMOUNTS PROPOSED. PLEASE NOTE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS, VISA COSTS ETC. WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN PROMNOTES THOUGH COSTS WITHDRAWN FROM ACCOUNT NO. 5. UNQUOTE.CATTO

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